

BLOCKLESS FIBER OPTIC ATTENUATORS AND ATTENUATION
SYSTEMS EMPLOYING DISPERSION TAILORED POLYMERS

Abstract

[0050] Controllable fiber optic attenuators and attenuation systems are disclosed for controllably extracting optical energy from a fiber optic, and therefore attenuating the optical signal being transmitted through the fiber optic. Material removed from a portion of the fiber optic exposes a side surface through which optical energy can be extracted. The portion of the fiber is suspended between two support points, and a controllable material is formed over the surface for controllably extracting optical energy according to a changeable stimulus applied thereto, which affects the refractive index thereof. In one embodiment, the changeable stimulus is light energy from a light source having a different wavelength from the wavelength of the optical energy of interest.